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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-16 are pending.

Claims 1 and 5-7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO96/27766 to Brehm in view of Ansari.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an advanced design of an axially staged, annular combustion chamber. The combustion chamber has a plurality of pilot burners and a pilot zone of combustion and also has downstream, a plurality of main burners and a common main zone of combustion. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define its axially staged structure and combustion.

Brehm has such an axially staged construction.

Ansari, on the other hand, is of a conventional design, having only a single set of annularly arranged burners/injectors 11. Ansari does not disclose or suggest having both a plurality of pilot burners with a pilot zone and a plurality of main burners with a main zone. Thus, Ansari is of a completely different type of combustion chamber operating in a different manner than the combustion chamber of Brehm. Ansari does not even encounter the issues dealing with the mixing of pilot burner gases with main burner gases, let alone optimizing such mixing and combustion for desired performance and emissions. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the single stage design of Ansari to modify the combustion operation of the dual staged design of Brehm, so the combination of Ansari with Brehm should not be made. Absent the teachings of Ansari, Brehm is deficient in teaching or suggesting the invention of claim 1, as previously conceded by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Ansari should not be combined with Brehm, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

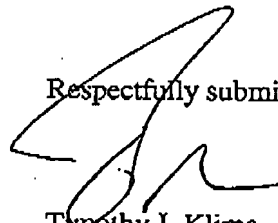
In view of the above, it is believed that claim 1 is in allowable condition. Claims 5-16 all depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

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Claims 2-4, currently withdrawn from consideration, also depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore it is respectfully requested that these claims also be allowed.

It is believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If anything else of a minor nature is required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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